

town clerk—a position from which he retired earlier this year.

Stanley's involvement with the New Haven community stretches far beyond his professional and political career. His participation in a number of local civic and service organizations reflect his personal commitment to enriching the lives of our fellow citizens. The United Way, the Private Industry Council, and the Dixwell Community Development Corporation are just a few who have benefitted from his time and efforts.

I am pleased to rise today to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Stanley Rogers for his invaluable contributions to our community and my very best wishes as he enjoys his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO POLK CREEK ELEMENTARY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Polk Creek Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "Exemplary" school.

Polk Creek Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools in West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Polk Creek Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education of all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Polk Creek Elementary.

HONORING TEXAS LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legacy of representation and positive activism that has been fostered by the Texas Legislative Black Caucus. Since its inception, this fearless and focused group of State leaders has consistently fought to ensure that the policy priorities of Texas reflect the best interests of all of our citizens. The education, economic, civil and human rights initiative have revolutionized State services and have helped ensure that all Texans are empowered to achieve the American dream.

The Caucus will host its statewide conference from March 14–16, 2001. This year's topic, "Excellence and Achievement for the Millennium," is particularly poignant. As Texas prepares to lead the Nation in the technology driven, global economy of today and tomorrow,

it is critical that its leaders devise ways to ensure that everyone is included. No organization in the State is better prepared or has a better track record of holding those in power accountable for the tools given to Texas families to improve their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the U.S. Congress join me in paying honor and tribute to the Texas Legislative Black Caucus as they continue their critical fight for all Texas families.

TRIBUTE TO PICKENS SCHOOL

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Pickens School in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Pickens School has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Pickens School for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Pickens School.

HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, we could do better than this bill. We should do better than this bill. But clearly, today, we will not do better than this bill—and so, with some reluctance, I will vote for this bill.

Over the course of this year, the House has considered several important measures, including bills to respond to the terror attacks on our country. But this could be the most important bill of the year, and maybe even of this 107th Congress—because nothing is more important for the health of our democracy than improving the fairness and inclusiveness of our elections. That is why I am cosponsoring H.R. 1170, introduced by Representative Conyers.

That comprehensive reform bill would establish uniform and nondiscriminatory requirements for Federal elections, which must be met by the 2004 general election. Under that bill, all voting machines would have to: Allow voters to verify their votes before tabulation; notify voters of over votes and under votes; provide an auditable record; and be equally accessible to voters with disabilities and special needs.

Also, under that bill provisional ballots would be permitted in all Federal elections and all voters would have to get a sample ballot and

instructions 10 days prior to election day, and would have to be notified of their voting rights under federal and state law and of the federal and state agencies to contract if they think their rights are violated.

The Conyers bill would provide for federal reimbursement to the states for meeting these requirements and a matching grant fund program that would provide advance assistance to enable states and localities for that purpose. And the bill would establish a politically balanced study Commission to examine voter registration and maintenance of voters rolls; issues of voter intimidation; accuracy of voting; establishing a federal or State election-day holiday; modified polling place hours; and whether an existing or a new Federal agency should provide continuing assistance to states. It would also examine access to ballots and polling places, including notice of voting locations and access for voters with disabilities, limited English proficiency, visual and hearing impairments, and with other special needs. The commission would develop recommendations of the best practices in voting and election administration.

These are all things that should be done—and while it does into do everything that should be done, this bill takes very important steps to improve current conditions. I opposed the rule because I wanted the bill to do more. I supported the motion to recommit for the same reason. But we should not refuse to do something even if we are not going to do all we should. So I will support the bill in the hope that it will be improved as the legislative process continues.

GETTING AMERICA'S ANTI-TERRORIST MESSAGE TO CENTRAL ASIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that the International Relations Committee recently passed legislation to create Radio Free Afghanistan. I also commend the Administration for the steps it has taken to ensure that the United States does not lose the public relations battle as it wages the war on terrorism. It is vital that the people of Afghanistan and its neighbors know the truth about America's objectives in combating terrorism and understand how our actions benefit all of mankind.

Setting up Radio Free Afghanistan will give us a valuable tool to fight the vicious propaganda that Osama bin Laden and his supporters continue to spew forth. But Radio Free Afghanistan cannot succeed in isolation. Its broadcasts must be supplemented by stepped up and improved broadcasts to Afghanistan's neighbors—Pakistan and the Eurasian states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. As my colleagues are aware, the Taliban are actively supporting an Islamic extremist insurgency in the Fergana Valley, where the borders of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan converge. It is conceivable that the Taliban's ultimate objective is Kazakhstan, the largest country in the region, rich in oil and minerals.

Broadcasts by Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty to these countries should be increased both in air time and in quality. They